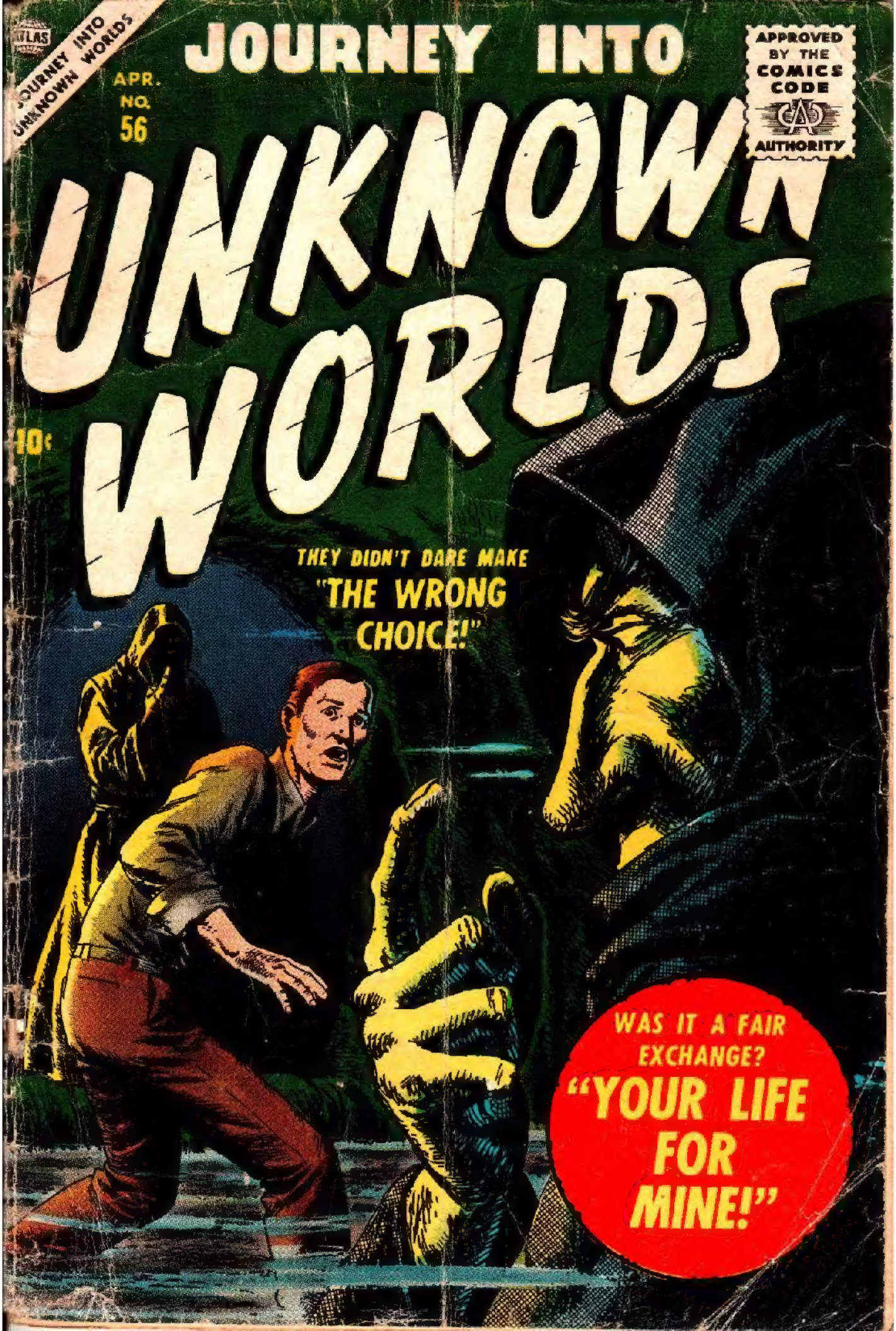
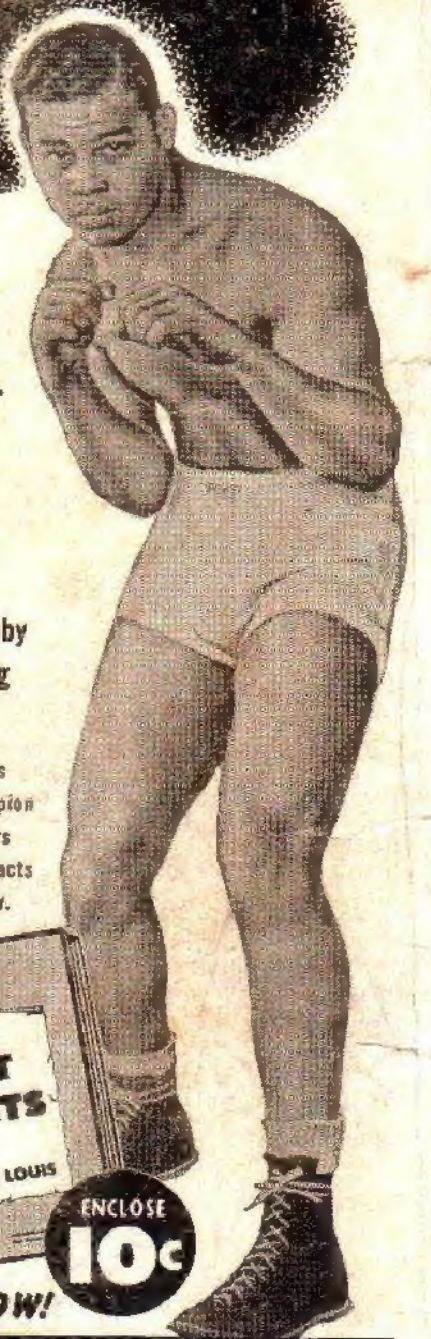

ATLAS
JOURNEY INTO UNKNOWN WORLDS
JOURNEY INTO
APR.
NO.
56
UNKNOWN WORLDS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
10¢
THEY DIDN'T DARE MAKE
"THE WRONG CHOICE!"
WAS IT A FAIR EXCHANGE?
"YOUR LIFE FOR MINE!"

"WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T·N·T IN YOUR FISTS"

Says JOE LOUIS, Great World Champion



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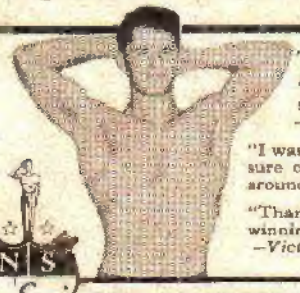

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Ontology

"MARTIN WAS CORRECT IN HIS THEORY, BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR BETTER FOR THE WHOLE WORLD IF HE HAD NEVER PROVED IT!"

the MAN WHO WENT TOO FAR!

MARTIN, NOW THAT THE RAY IS IN OPERATION, I'M FRIGHTENED! PERHAPS WE'RE CARRYING SCIENCE TOO FAR!
FRIGHTENED? AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME? WE CAN'T STOP NOW! IN A FEW MOMENTS, I'LL KNOW IF I'M A GENIUS, OR A FOOL!
COME WITH US INTO AN UNKNOWN WORLD!

YORK, WHAT IF I'M RIGHT? WHAT IF THERE IS SOME SORT OF LIFE FORM OUT THERE IN SPACE? THINK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN!
I HAVE THOUGHT, AND IT'S NO GOOD! EVEN IF SUCH LIFE EXISTS, WHAT RIGHT HAVE WE TO TAMPER WITH IT?

LIFE THAT COULD EXIST IN SPACE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADAPTED TO SPACE ... SOMETHING WITHOUT SOLIDITY! LIKE A GHOST! PICTURE SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON EARTH!

TO A CREATURE LIKE THAT OUR ATMOSPHERE WOULD SEEM ALMOST SOLID! IT MIGHT BE FATAL! IF THE RAY WORKS.....
THE RAY WILL WORK! IT'S PERFECT! A COSMIC MAGNET! IF THERE'S ANYTHING ALIVE IN SPACE, THE RAY WILL DRAW IT TO US!
AND I KNOW THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES, TOO. BUT I'M A SCIENTIST, AND THIS IS FOR SCIENCE! WE'RE NOT TURNING BACK!
MARTIN'S EYES GLITTERED! SCIENCE WAS HIS OBSESSION! BUT HE WAS STILL HUMAN, THEN! HE STOPPED HIS ANGRY FLOW OF WORDS....
YORK, I CAN'T STOP NOW! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? WE.....
MARTIN! THE RAY! SOMETHING IS FORMING IN IT...
IT'S A MAN! BUT HE'S LIKE A TRANSPARENT SHADOW! THERE'S NO SUBSTANCE TO HIM!
BECAUSE HE'S A MAN FROM OUT IN SPACE! A MAN ADAPTED TO AN ATMOSPHERE THAT'S ALMOST A PERFECT VACUUM! YORK, WE'VE DONE IT!
HE SEES US! HE'S AWARE OF US!
AND HE'S PUZZLED! CONFUSED! MARTIN, TURN OFF THE RAY! LET HIM GO BACK TO HIS OWN WORLD!
NO! STAY AWAY! I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, TOO! BUT I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS!
I WARN YOU! THE RAY CAN'T HURT HIM! HE'S LIKE SMOKE! BUT IT CAN MAKE ME FAMOUS! I'M GOING TO TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM!
2

MARTIN WAS DANGEROUS/AND SO, FOR A WHILE, YORK DID NOT INTERFERE.....

FIVE DAYS OF TRYING TO ANALYZE THAT POOR DEVIL'S STRUCTURE! TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM! AND IT'S HOPELESS! IT'S INHUMAN!

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT! NO ONE HAS! AND IF MORE OF THE RAYS ARE BUILT, MORE CREATURES WILL BE TORN OUT OF THEIR OWN WORLD! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

YORK MADE UP HIS MIND SLOWLY, BUT IN THE END THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO BE DONE...

THE RAY HAS TO BE SMASHED, DEMOLISHED....

I CAN DO IT NOW, WHILE MARTIN IS ASLEEP!

IN THE END, YORK STOOD ABOVE A SCIENTIFIC MARVEL, HATING IT, BUT HIS BLOW WAS NEVER STRUCK....

NO! STOP!

YORK BLACKED OUT! AND WHEN HE AWOKE, IT WAS TOO LATE!

MARTIN WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS IT? THE RAY....

THE RAY IS ALL RIGHT! I ONLY WISH IT WEREN'T! YORK, YOU WERE RIGHT! I WENT TOO FAR!
TOO FAR? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT MARTIN DID NOT ANSWER AT ONCE! INSTEAD, HE LED YORK OUTSIDE!
SEE FOR YOURSELF! WHEN WE FOUGHT, WE FELL AGAINST THE RAY! IT TILTED SO IT POINTS STRAIGHT DOWN, AND SOMEHOW THE POWER WENT ON!
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I FOUND THOSE!
BUT WHAT OF IT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YORK STARED HELPLESSLY, NOT UNDERSTANDING! HE WAS STILL DAZED! BUT MARTIN DID NOT LEAVE HIM LONG IN DOUBT!
DON'T YOU SEE? IF SPACE CAN CONTAIN A LIFE FORM, AND IF LIFE FORMS CAN EXIST ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, WHY NOT INSIDE THE EARTH?
WHY NOT A LIFE FORM THAT CAN MOVE THROUGH EARTH AND STONE AS WE MOVE THROUGH AIR, AND AS HE MOVES THROUGH A VACUUM... A LIFE FORM INCREDIBLY DENSE IN STRUCTURE?
IT WOULD BE A CREATURE THAT WOULD HAVE A STRENGTH WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE! IT WOULD BE PRACTICALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE!
NO! WAIT... YOU'RE SAYING THAT WHEN THE RAY TILTED DOWNWARD IT DREW SUCH A CREATURE INTO OUR WORLD FROM BELOW....
YORK SHUDDERED! IT COULDN'T BE! BUT THE EVIDENCE WAS THERE, BEFORE HIM!
YES! YORK, WHAT WILL HAPPEN, NOW? THOSE FOOTPRINTS LEAD DIRECTLY TOWARD THE CITY! AND WHAT KIND OF MAN MAKES FOOTPRINTS TEN INCHES DEEP... IN SOLID ROCK?
THE END

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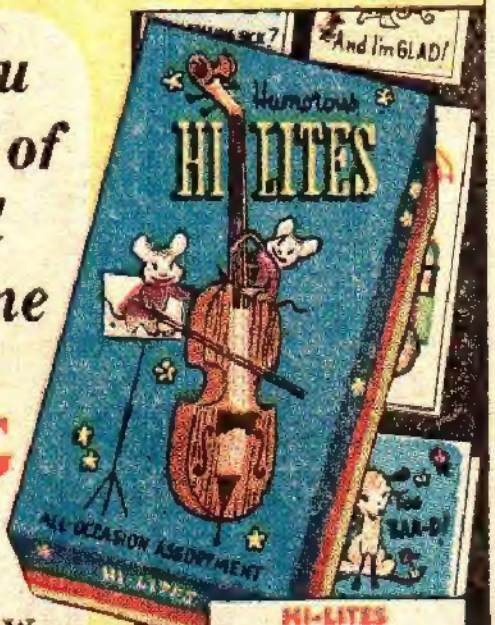

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City_____ State_____

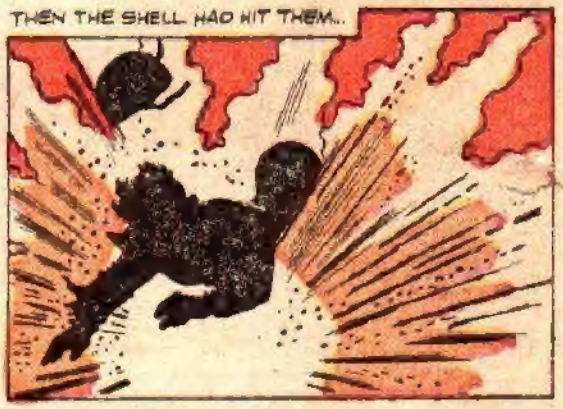
If writing for an organization, give its name_____

IT'S SAID THAT WHEN A MAN IS DYING HIS WHOLE LIFE FLASHES BEFORE HIS EYES! THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENED WITH DAN MORLEY...NOT HIS WHOLE LIFE BUT ALL THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THIS...TO HIM HURTLING FROM THE WINDOW OF HIS ROOM TO THE GROUND BELOW!

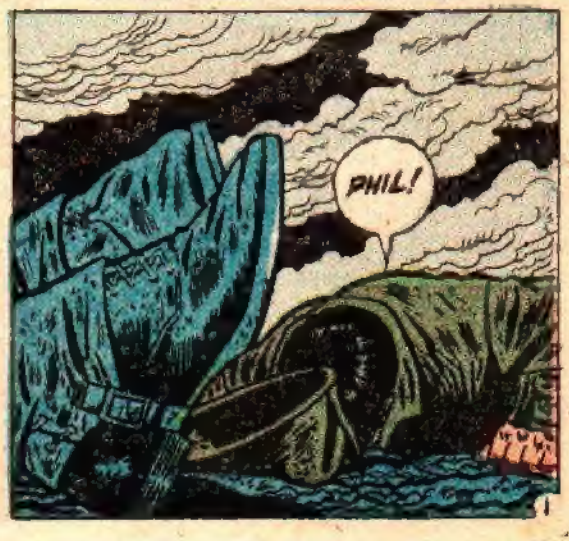
THEY WON'T DIE!

HE THOUGHT BACK TO THE BEGINNING! IT HAD BEGUN DURING THE WAR...

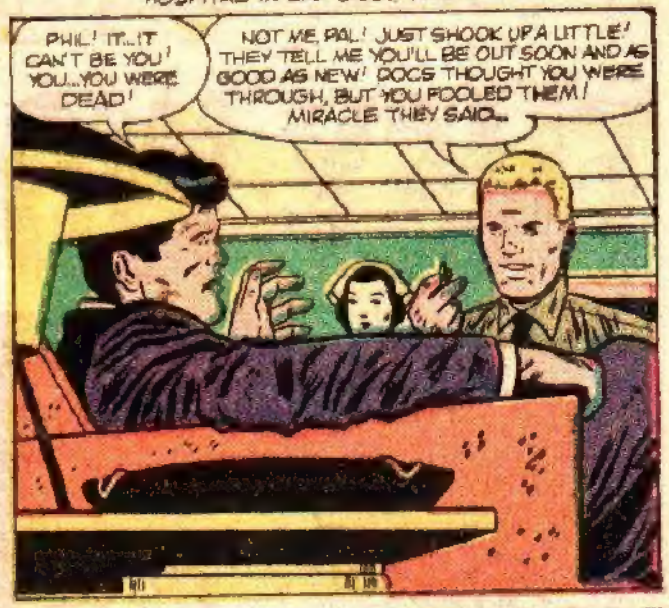
THEN THE SHELL HAD HIT THEM...



IT WAS DARK WHEN HE'D REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS! HE WAS WOUNDED! NEARBY LAY HIS BUDDY, PHIL BRICE! HE HITCHED HIMSELF TOWARD PHIL...



HE HAD BEEN SENT HOME AND WAS RECUPERATING IN THE ARMY HOSPITAL IN SAN DIEGO WHEN...


PHIL! IT...IT CAN'T BE YOU! YOU...YOU WERE DEAD!
NOT ME, PAL! JUST SHOOK UP A LITTLE! THEY TELL ME YOU'LL BE OUT SOON AND AS GOOD AS NEW! DOCS THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH, BUT YOU FOOLED THEM! MIRACLE THEY SAID...

IT PREYED ON DAN'S MIND! PHIL HAD BEEN DEAD, HE WAS SURE OF IT! AFTER HE WAS DISCHARGED, AS A HOBBY, HE BEGAN TO LOOK INTO OTHER REPORTS OF "LUCKY" GUYS, LIKE PHIL!

AND KENNIS...FELL FROM SCAFFOLDING! WHEN THEY REACHED HIM HE GRINNED AND STOOD UP! AT LEAST A DOZEN OF THEM WHO HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM SURE DEATH, UNHARMED!

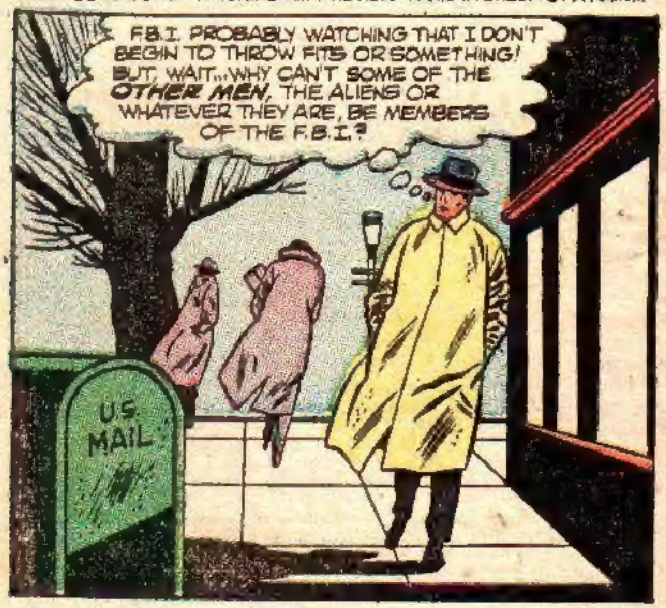
THE HUMAN BODY DOESN'T HEAL THAT WAY OR TAKE THAT KIND OF BEATING! SO, WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE IF NOT HUMAN? WHO ARE THEY? WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER SOMEWHERE!

HE COULD KEEP IT TO HIMSELF NO LONGER ONCE HE WAS CONVINCED! HE TOOK HIS DATA TO AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO WAS AN F.B.I. OFFICIAL!

DAN, WE'VE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS DATA AND LISTENED TO YOUR STORY! TELL ME, HAVE YOU HAD HEADACHES? HAVE YOU SEEN A DOCTOR LATELY?
OH, THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE! I'M NOT CRAZY IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN!

I DON'T MEAN THAT! BUT THERE'S SUCH THINGS AS HALLUCINATIONS! YOU KNOW A MAN CAN ALWAYS MAKE FACTS FIT A THEORY! NOW THIS STUFF ABOUT THE OTHER MEN, AS YOU CALL THEM...
OKAY, OKAY, FORGET IT!

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, DAN MORLEY WAS A HUNTED MAN! HE FELT EYES CONSTANTLY WATCHING HIM! HE HELD PANIC IN CHECK BY A HAIR...


F.B.I. PROBABLY WATCHING THAT I DON'T BEGIN TO THROW FITS OR SOMETHING! BUT, WAIT...WHY CAN'T SOME OF THE OTHER MEN, THE ALIENS OR WHATEVER THEY ARE, BE MEMBERS OF THE F.B.I.?
U.S. MAIL

BUT THERE'S OTHERS TOO! I CAN FEEL THEM, WATCHING ME, READY TO CLOSE IN, THE CREATURES WHO WON'T DIE, WHO HEAL THEMSELVES! THEY DON'T WANT SOMEONE, A HUMAN, WALKING AROUND WHO KNOWS ABOUT THEM! I'LL PACK TONIGHT!

SO ALARM EDGED IN AND PERSUADED HIM TO RUN! AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM, AN ORDINARY GUY, LIKE YOU AND ME, FACING THE UNKNOWN!

A HAND, INVISIBLE IN THE DARKNESS PUSHED THE DOOR CLOSED! A STRAY BEAM OF OUTSIDE LIGHT TOUCHED A FACE...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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HANDS REACHED FOR HIM AND IN HAMMERING PANIC HE STRUCK OUT!

HE FOUGHT LIKE A MADMAN SUDDENLY HE FELT THE WINDOW LEDGE AGAINST THE BACK OF HIS THIGHS! THEN..

ALL THIS FLASHED THROUGH HIS MIND IN THOSE SECONDS THAT HE HURTLED DOWN!

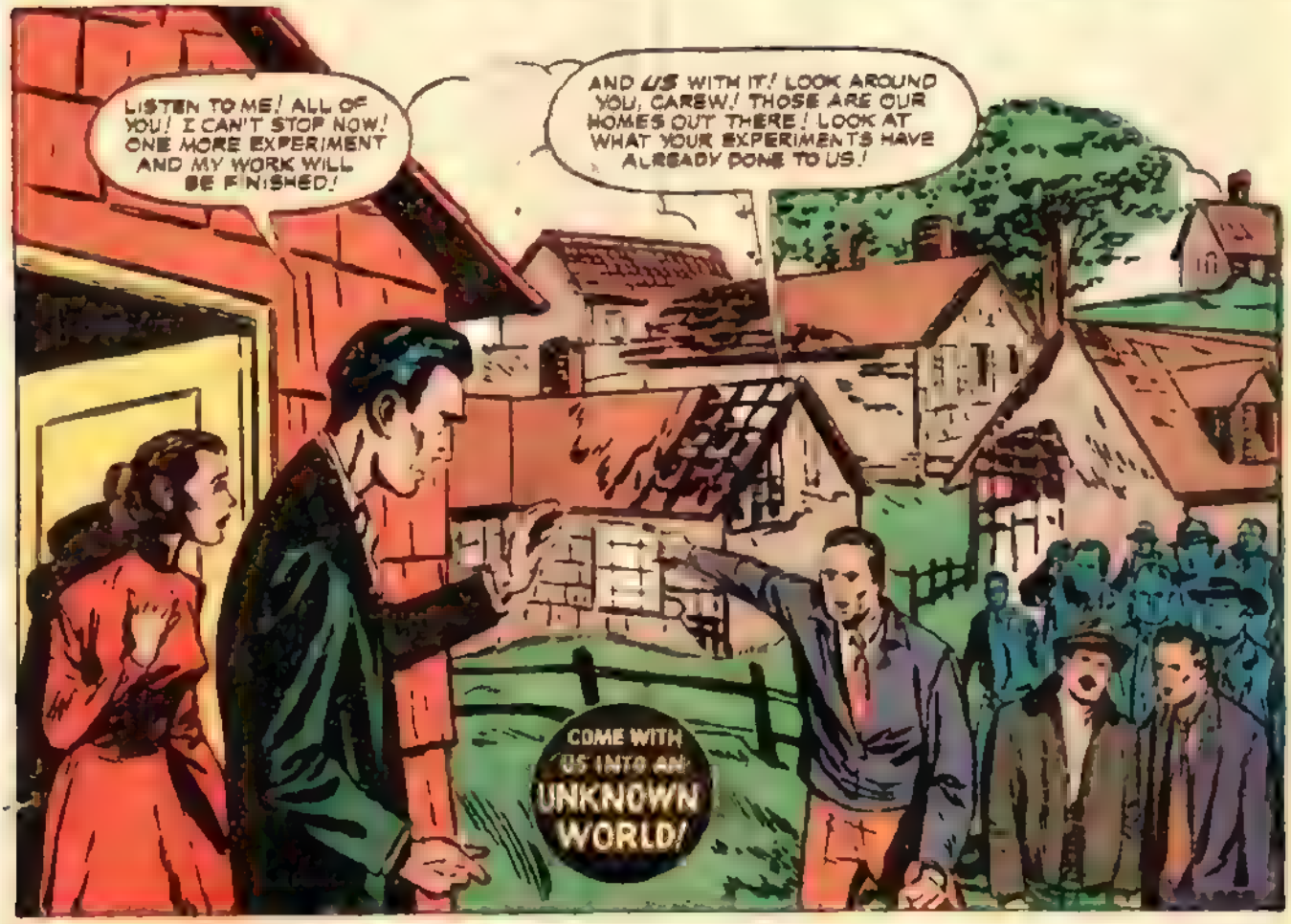
BUT PAIN BEGAN TO SLIP AWAY CONSCIOUSNESS REMAINED! HE LOOKED DOWN AT HIS WOUNDS.. AND DISMAY WHIRLED THROUGH HIM LIKE A CYCLONE!

NOW YOU KNOW DAN! YOU'RE ONE OF US! WE WERE ONLY TRYING TO HOLD YOU WHEN OUT YOU WENT! WE'RE GOING TO TALK TO YOU WHERE THERE ARE OTHERS JUST A FEW WE'VE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!
WHAT AM I? WHAT ARE YOU?

HUMANS, DAN, BUT WITH A STRANGE POWER! WE'RE NOT SURE WHY WE HAVE THIS STRANGE POWER TO HEAL OURSELVES BUT THERE MUST BE A REASON! WE THINK IT'S TO HELP THE MASSES OF THE WORLD! WHATEVER ELSE WE ARE, WE'RE MEN OF DESTINY WHO WILL DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE SERVICE AND AID OF MANKIND!
CHEZ

CAREW'S PROBLEM WAS TO FIND A WAY TO COMPLETE HIS WORK AND STILL ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES! BUT THERE WAS A SOLUTION! ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS TO MAKE A TRADE WITH SOMEONE!

YOUR LIFE FOR MINE!


LISTEN TO ME! ALL OF YOU! I CAN'T STOP NOW! ONE MORE EXPERIMENT AND MY WORK WILL BE FINISHED!
AND US WITH IT! LOOK AROUND YOU, CAREW! THOSE ARE OUR HOMES OUT THERE! LOOK AT WHAT YOUR EXPERIMENTS HAVE ALREADY DONE TO US!
COME WITH US INTO AN UNKNOWN WORLD!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOMES WAS ACCIDENTAL! I USE A GREAT DEAL OF POWER!
WE KNOW! SO WE'RE WARNING YOU, CAREW! STOP! WE WANT YOUR WORD, OTHERWISE WE WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE MAY DO TO YOU!

SHOUTING SCREAMING THE MOB RAGED AT CAREW! AND DEEP DOWN INSIDE HE SNEERED AT THEM! BUT HIS CONTEMPT DID NOT SHOW!

I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO I? ALL RIGHT I GIVE YOU MY WORD THERE WILL BE NO MORE EXPERIMENTS!
OH PAUL AT LAST! I'M GLAD YOU'VE DONE THE RIGHT THING!
1

THE FOOLS! DO YOU REALLY THINK I MEAN TO STOP? ONE MORE EXPERIMENT WILL PROVE MY THEORY!
PAUL, NO! YOU LIED! YOU MEAN TO GO ON!
OF COURSE I DO! I'M GOING TO PROVE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO REACH INTO THE PAST! I'M GOING TO BRING SOMEONE FROM THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT!
NO! PAUL, YOU SAW THEM OUT THERE! YOU SAW THE MOB!
A MOB IS HARMLESS AS LONG AS IT SCREAMS AND THREATENS! I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM! NOT UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT EXPERIMENT!
BUT THAT'S JUST IT! NEXT TIME THEY'LL ACT!
YES, BUT ONLY IF THEY CAN FIND ME, MY DEAR!
PAUL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CAREW SMILED! ALMOST CRUELLY! IT WAS ALL QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY! BUT HE DID NOT BOTHER TO ENLIGHTEN HIS WIFE!
THAT IS MY AFFAIR!
IF I BRING SOMEONE OUT OF THE PAST, SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE SO THAT THE BALANCE BETWEEN HIS TIME AND OURS WILL REMAIN CONSTANT!
WHAT'S MORE SIMPLE THAN FOR ME TO TAKE HIS PLACE! IN HIS TIME, MY KNOWLEDGE WOULD MAKE ME A GREAT MAN!
PAUL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? PAUL, OPEN THE DOOR!
EAGERLY, CAREW WENT TO WORK! THE GREAT MOMENT WAS AT HAND! THERE WAS NO REASON TO WAIT!
AFTER I'M GONE, THIS WILL DESTROY MY APPARATUS! NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ME, TO BRING ME BACK...
2

IN MINUTES, HE WAS READY!

HE'S FORMING A MAN WHO LIVED FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO! I'VE *SUCCEEDED!* I *KNEW* I COULD DO IT!

CAREW MANIPULATED HIS CONTROLS, AND HE DIDN'T LOOK OUTSIDE! WHAT DID THAT MATTER TO HIM?

OUTSIDE, THE HOLOCAUST WHICH HE HAD CAUSED RAGED WILDLY, BUT CAREW HAD NO EYES FOR THE ROARING FLAMES...

GOOD-BYE, MY FRIEND! I WONDER WHAT THE MOB WILL SAY WHEN THEY FIND *YOU* HERE?

CAREW VANISHED! AND WITH HIS GOING, THE DEVICE HE HAD ACTIVATED WENT INTO EFFECT! HIS PLAN WAS COMPLETE!

THE DOORWAY INTO THE PAST CLOSED FOREVER! SOMEWHERE, CAREW BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE; SAFE FROM PURSUIT...

I'M IN SOME SORT OF LABORATORY!

THE MAN WHOSE PLACE I'VE TAKEN IN THE PAST MUST HAVE BEEN A CHEMIST! BUT THERE WAS NO REAL SCIENCE FOUR CENTURIES AGO!
WAIT! SULPHUR, A CRUCIBLE... SO THAT'S IT! HE WAS AN ALCHEMIST! ONE OF THOSE FOOLS WHO THOUGHT THERE WAS A WAY TO TURN BASE METALS INTO GOLD
THIS IS PERFECT! I'LL FIT RIGHT IN! I..
WHAT?!
FOR A FEW PRECIOUS SECONDS CAREW WAS HAPPY! BUT THOSE FEW SECONDS WERE ALL HE WAS TO HAVE!
A MOB! THEY'RE COMING HERE! BUT WHY? WHAT DO THEY WANT?
THE CRUCIBLE... THAT'S IT! THE MAN I CHANGED PLACES WITH WAS AN ALCHEMIST! AND FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO ALCHEMISTS WERE LOOKED UPON AS WIZARDS! THE PEOPLE FEARED THEM!
CAREW FACED THE MOB AS THE DOOR BURST INWARD UPON ITS HINGES! BUT IT WASN'T AS IT HAD BEEN THAT OTHER TIME! THIS MOB WAS SILENT! DEADLY SILENT!
NO! PLEASE .. YOU CAN'T ..

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IT ALL ADDS UP

MORTON WIDDICOMB bounded out into the road from the woods and ran all the way home. When he finally reached the little white bungalow he shared with his mother, he leaped inside the door and shouted, "I've found some more signs . . . now they'll all have to listen to me."

His mother stepped outside the kitchen to listen to him patiently. "Found what, Morton dear?"

"Found some more signs of the new Ice Age coming on. They're all through the woods, if you just look for them. The birds have all gone South for the winter, and here it is only June."

"That's nice, dear," his mother said patiently, and went back into the kitchen.

"But you don't understand, Mother," Morton said convincingly. "You remember reading in school all about the old Ice Ages that held the world for thousands of years . . . well, another one's coming on, and fast. I can see signs of it all over."

"Well, in that case, why don't you tell somebody," said his mother, and thought aloud earnestly, "I'd better get my winter coat out of storage."

But Morton didn't hear her last remark . . . he was busy getting writing implements from the study. There were so many graphs and charts lining the drawers and closets that he had a hard job finding them at first, but eventually, he got down to the business of writing the Society of Scientists about his latest findings.

Less than a week later, Morton received a reply from that learned body, and was delighted to write out his acceptance to speak at their next meeting. But he wrote them, "You'd better make the next meeting pretty quick, because according to the things I've found out, the glaciers are going to be upon us in about a month."

Sure enough, Morton soon found himself upon the podium at the large lecture hall, and as he finished his speech, he was delighted to see that all his findings were taken seriously, and that the scientists agreed with all his charts and notebooks.

"It's a strange thing to have happen to the world," said the leader of the group, "but I think we can all thank Mr. Widdicomb for calling this astounding fact to our attention. Preparations for protecting the people of northern latitudes from the cold must begin immediately."

Morton was overjoyed that somebody was at last listening to him and believing him. In spite of his awe at his own theory, he was also gratified to see that further signs of the oncoming ice and cold were being noticed by more and more people and scientists in the world.

As days passed, Morton filled his notebooks with such remarks as, "Today observed that the weasel was shedding its brown coat and a new white winter coat was growing out." And on page 16 was the note, "Today the weasel abandoned its burrow and moved out . . . presumably South, like all the rest."

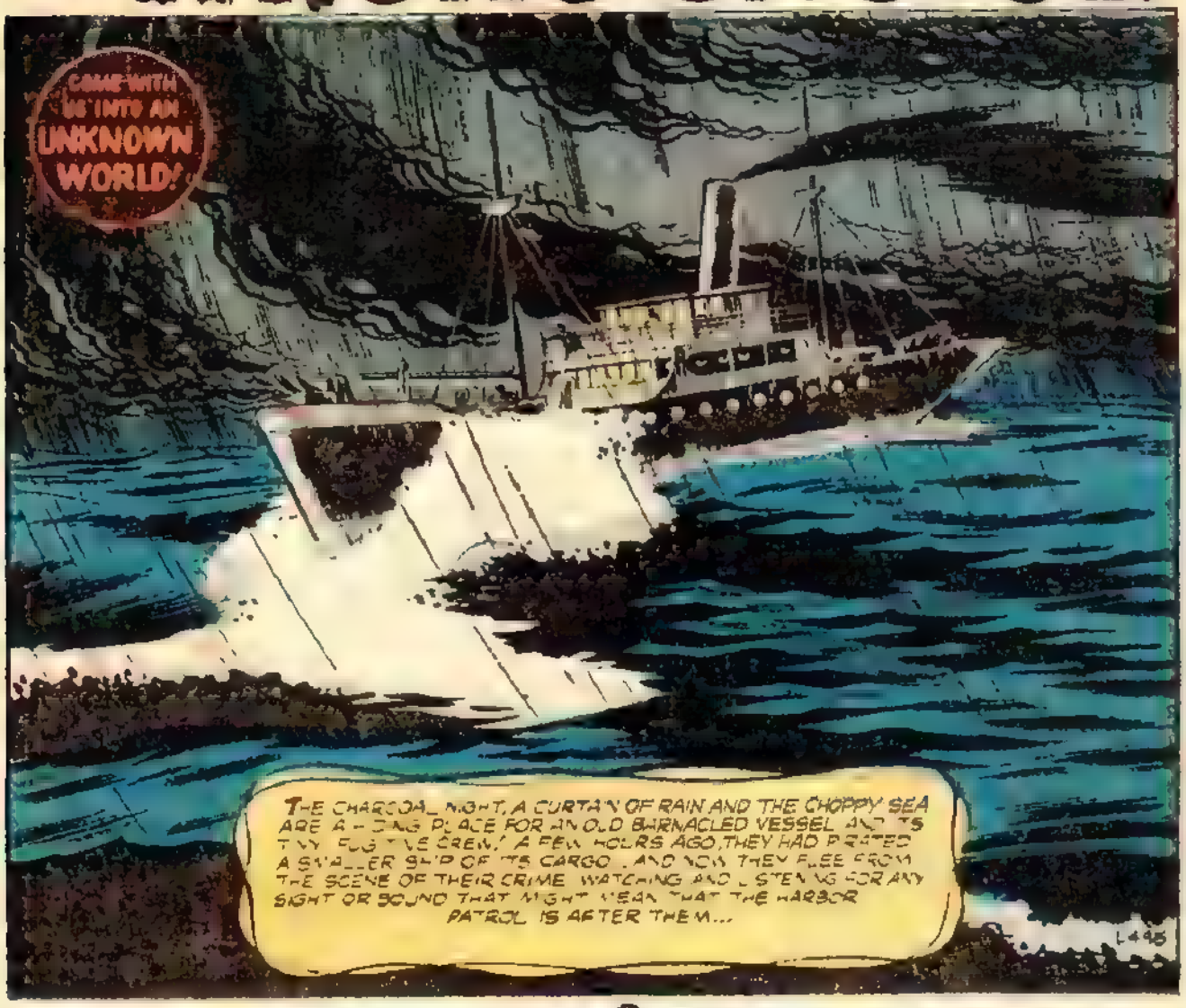
The word of the onslaught of ice soon spread, and the newspapers carried the headline on page one, "Ice Age Coming? Prepare!" But the government too, took charge, and soon an Army General came to pay Morton a call. When the general had looked through all of Morton's notebooks, and compared them with the notes he had received from other scientists, the Army man told Morton, "You realize that this is too big for just one community to handle. The Army is taking over from here, and I have the authority to appoint you, Morton Widdicomb, as Technical Adviser for a new committee being set up. The Committee for the Organization of Preparations for the Ice Age."

Morton soon found that COPIA was taking up all his spare time, and indeed *all* the time in which he should have been making more notes and checking his figures carefully. But, duty came before personal interests to Morton, and he decided to attend to all the government business of supervising the preparations.

In an interview with the President, Morton made his theory clear. "It's really very simple, Mr. President. Once the glaciers expand, as they're doing now, they will in two more weeks reach this point," and he pointed with a large stick at a map on the wall. "When that happens, the entire balance of the earth will be

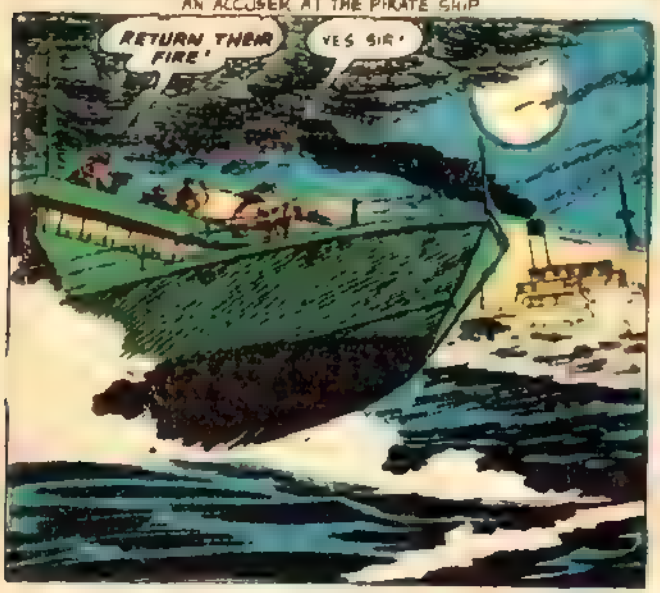
CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

THE WRONG CHOICE!

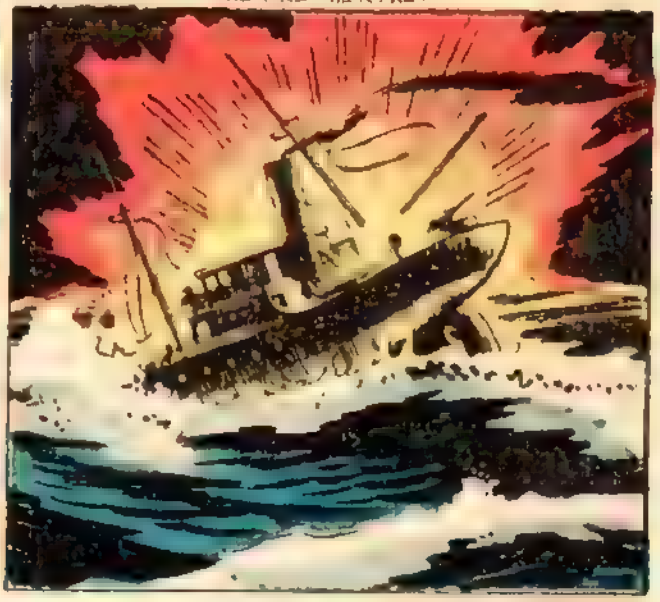

COME WITH US INTO AN UNKNOWN WORLD!
THE CHARCOAL NIGHT, A CURTAIN OF RAIN AND THE CHOPPY SEA ARE A FITTING PLACE FOR AN OLD BARNACLED VESSEL AND ITS TWO FUGITIVE CREW. A FEW HOURS AGO, THEY HAD PIRATED A SMALLER SHIP OF ITS CARGO. AND NOW THEY FLEE FROM THE SCENE OF THEIR CRIME, WATCHING AND LISTENING FOR ANY SIGHT OR SOUND THAT MIGHT MEAN THAT THE HARBOR PATROL IS AFTER THEM...
L445

I HEAR SOMETHING... ANOTHER BOAT FROM OVER THERE!
THEIR ENGINE! WITH THE FOG THEY MAY PASS US BY WITHOUT THE SOUND OF OUR ENGINE TO GUIDE THEM AND THE DARKNESS TO CONCEAL US!

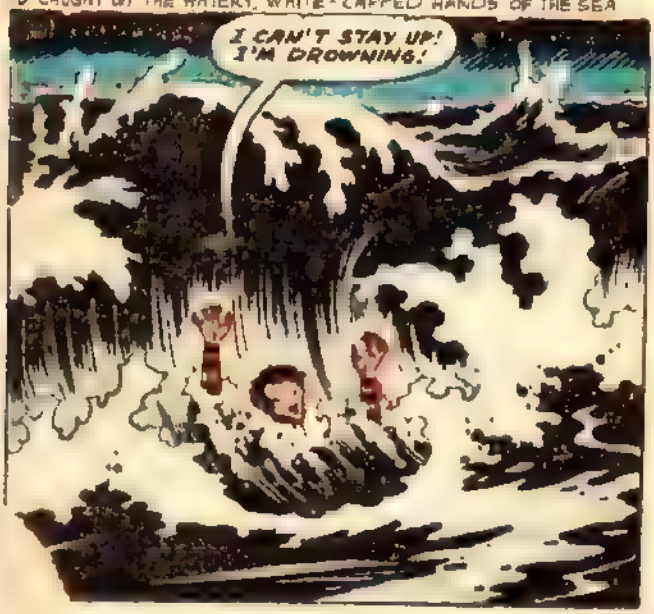
CAPTAIN JOSEF TOVAR OPENS FIRE...AND IMMEDIATELY A YELLOW BLADE OF LIGHT SLASHES THE NIGHT FROM THE POLICE CRAFT AND POINTS LIKE AN ACCUSER AT THE PIRATE SHIP

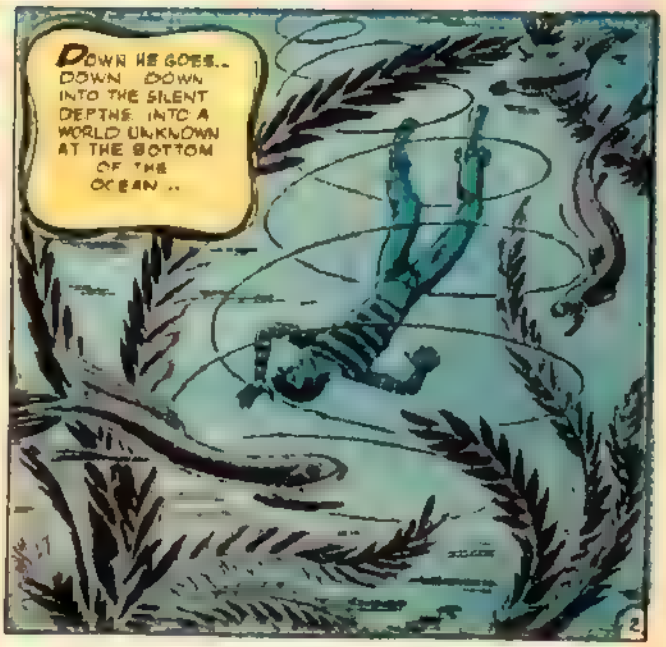


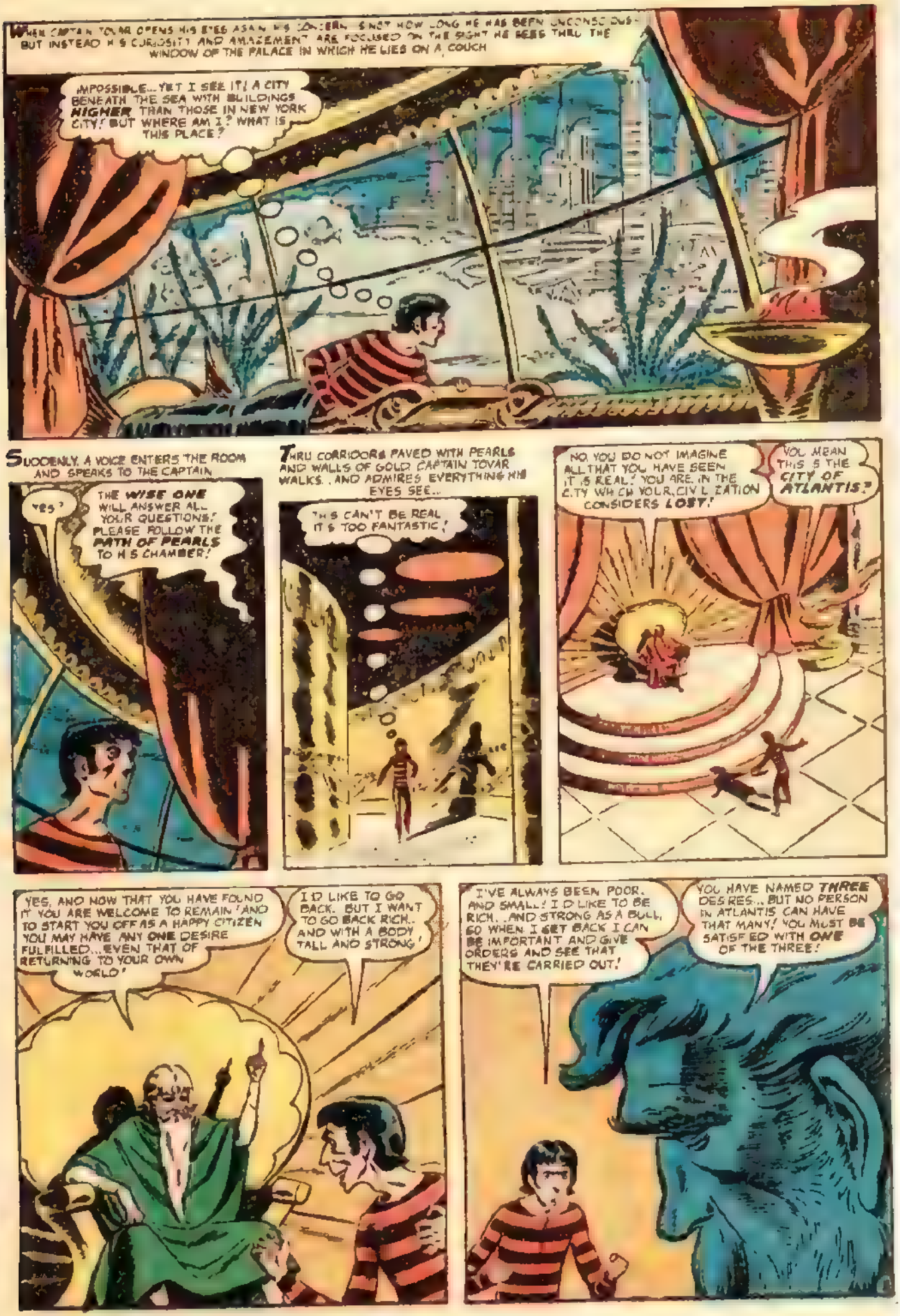
TRACER BULLETS FROM THE HARBOR PATROL CLAW THE DARKNESS AND FIND THEIR PREY



BUT THOUGH CAPTAIN TOVAR ESCAPES CAPTURE BY THE POLICE, HE IS CAUGHT BY THE WATERY, WHITE-CAPPED HANDS OF THE SEA





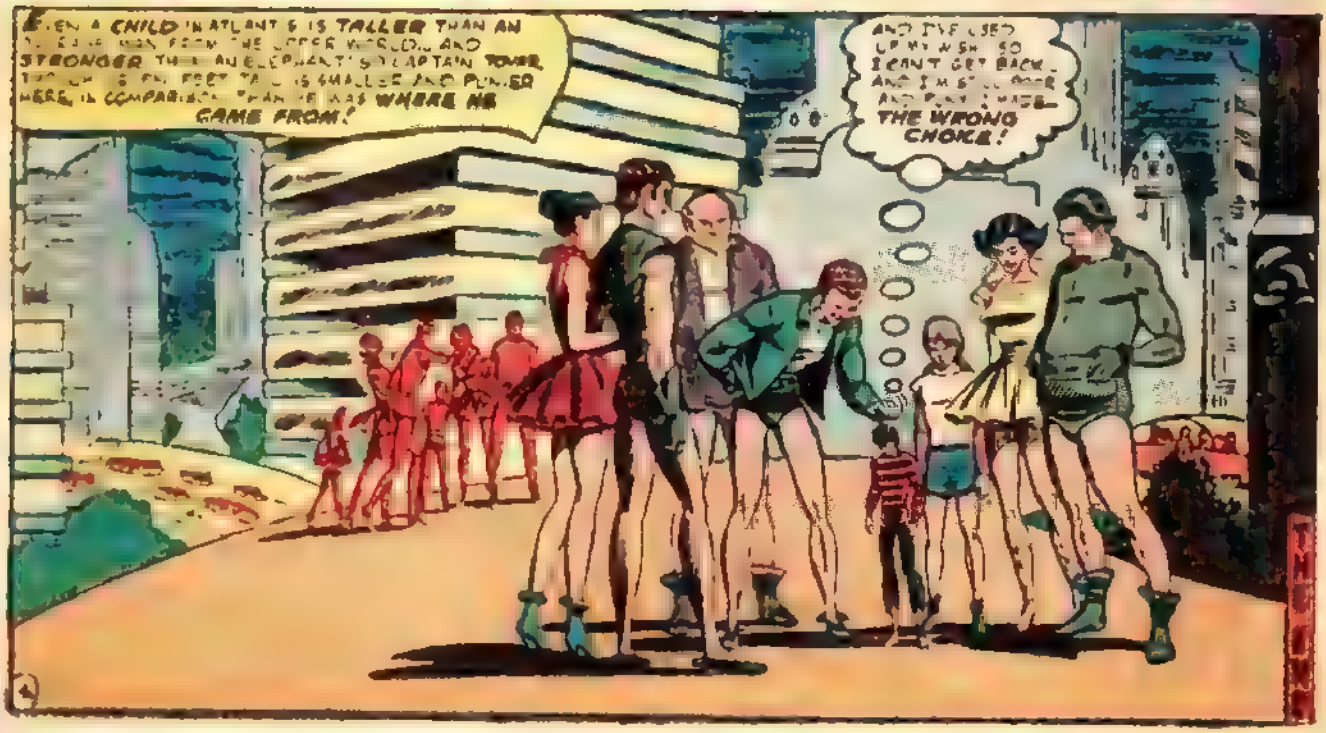

WHEN CAPTAIN TOVAR OPENS HIS EYES AGAIN HE CANNOT KNOW HOW LONG HE HAS BEEN UNCONSCIOUS BUT INSTEAD HIS CURIOSITY AND AMAZEMENT ARE FOCUSED ON THE SIGHT HE SEES THRU THE WINDOW OF THE PALACE IN WHICH HE LIES ON A COUCH
IMPOSSIBLE... YET I SEE IT! A CITY BENEATH THE SEA WITH BUILDINGS HIGHER THAN THOSE IN NEW YORK CITY! BUT WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
SUDDENLY, A VOICE ENTERS THE ROOM AND SPEAKS TO THE CAPTAIN
YES?
THE WISE ONE WILL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS! PLEASE FOLLOW THE PATH OF PEARLS TO HIS CHAMBER!
THRU CORRIDORS PAVED WITH PEARLS AND WALLS OF GOLD CAPTAIN TOVAR WALKS... AND ADMIRES EVERYTHING HIS EYES SEE...
THIS CAN'T BE REAL, IT'S TOO FANTASTIC!
NO, YOU DO NOT IMAGINE ALL THAT YOU HAVE SEEN IT IS REAL! YOU ARE IN THE CITY WHICH YOUR CIVILIZATION CONSIDERS LOST!
YOU MEAN THIS IS THE CITY OF ATLANTIS?
YES, AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE FOUND IT YOU ARE WELCOME TO REMAIN! AND TO START YOU OFF AS A HAPPY CITIZEN YOU MAY HAVE ANY ONE DESIRE FULFILLED... EVEN THAT OF RETURNING TO YOUR OWN WORLD!
I'D LIKE TO GO BACK. BUT I WANT TO GO BACK RICH.. AND WITH A BODY TALL AND STRONG!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN POOR, AND SMALL! I'D LIKE TO BE RICH.. AND STRONG AS A BULL, SO WHEN I GET BACK I CAN BE IMPORTANT AND GIVE ORDERS AND SEE THAT THEY'RE CARRIED OUT!
YOU HAVE NAMED THREE DESIRES... BUT NO PERSON IN ATLANTIS CAN HAVE THAT MANY! YOU MUST BE SATISFIED WITH ONE OF THE THREE!

CAPTAIN TOVAR HAS THREE DESIRES. BUT ONLY ONE CAN BE FULFILLED! WHICH ONE SHALL IT BE? HIS TEMPLES THROB. HIS THOUGHTS HAMMER HIS BRAIN.

AND IN AN INSTANT, AFTER A GESTURE FROM THE **WISE ONE**, CAPTAIN TOVAR BECOMES A MAN SEVEN FEET TALL... AND WITH MUSCLES SUCH AS NO MAN ON EARTH HAS EVER POSSESSED.

YOUR WISH HAS BEEN GRANTED! NOW YOU ARE ONE OF US! GO INTO THE CITY AND TELL THE PEOPLE!
YOU BET I'LL MEET THEM... AND I'LL SHOW THEM RIGHT OFF WHO THE BOSS IS GOING TO BE AROUND HERE FROM NOW ON!

BUT AS CAPTAIN TOVAR WALKS OUT INTO THE STREET HE GASPS AT THE SIGHT HE SEES.


EVEN A CHILD IN ATLANTIS IS TALLER THAN AN [illegible] FROM THE UPPER WORLD... AND STRONGER THAN AN ELEPHANT! SO CAPTAIN TOVAR, TOO, NOW IS SEVEN FEET TALL IS SMALLER AND PUNIER HERE IN COMPARISON THAN HE WAS WHERE HE CAME FROM!
AND I'VE USED UP MY WISH SO I CAN'T GET BACK... AND I'M STILL POOR AND PUNY! I MADE THE WRONG CHOICE!

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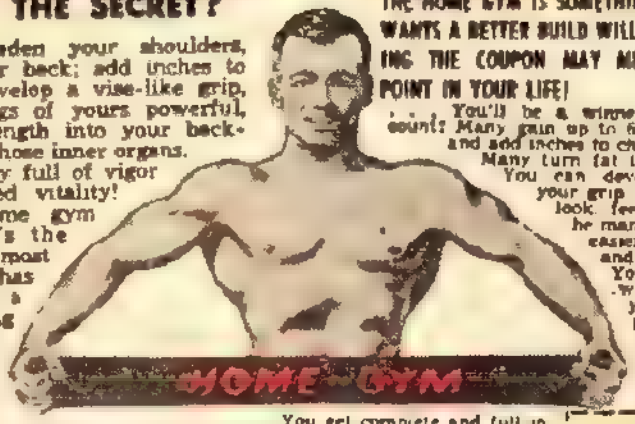

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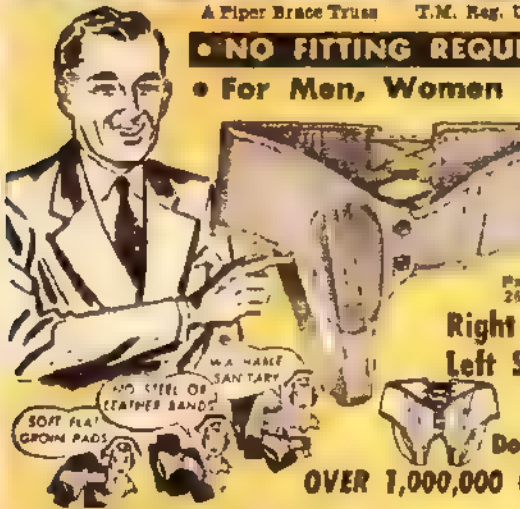

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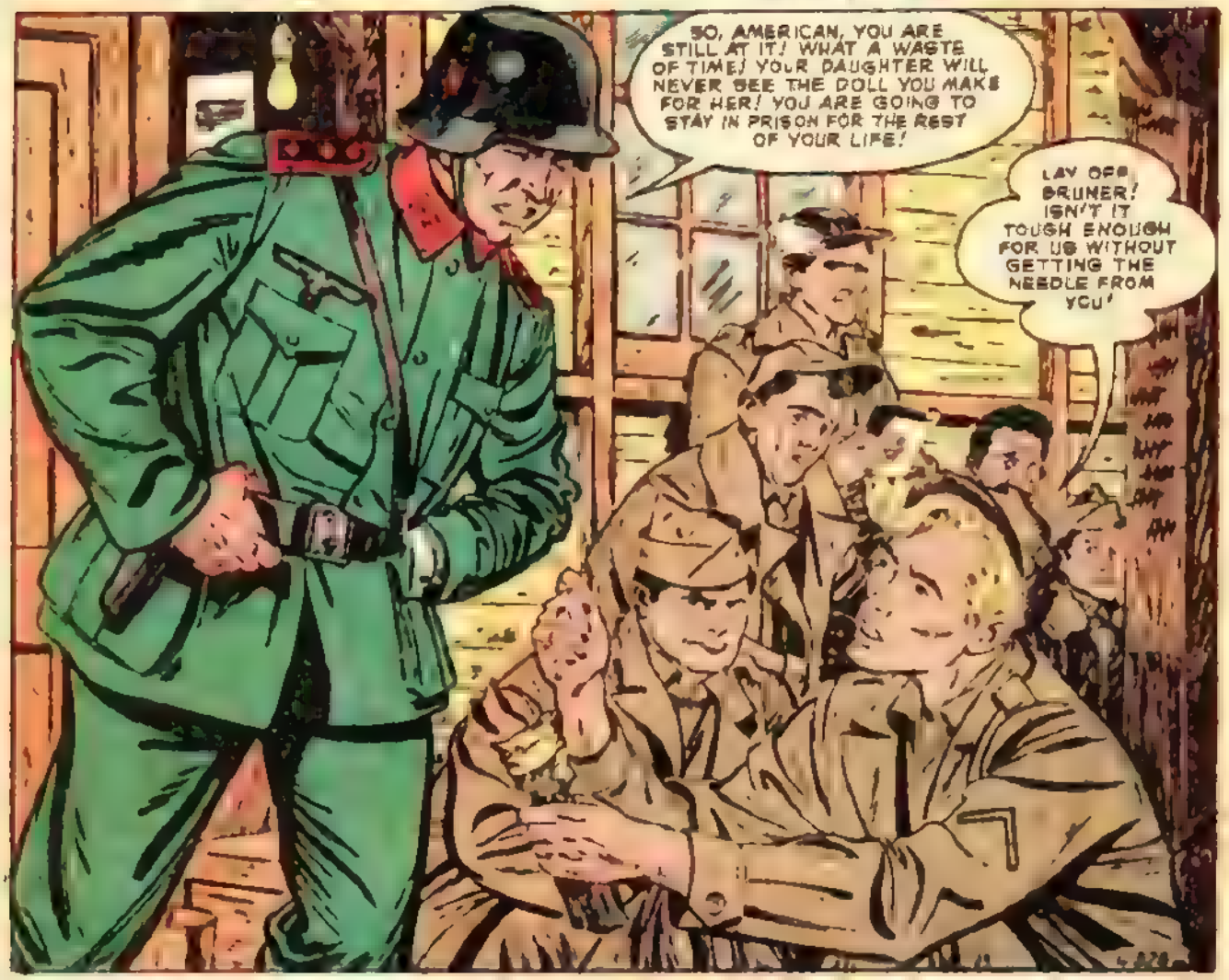
IT WAS 1944. WORLD WAR II! BUT THERE WAS NO WAR FOR PFC BILL SANDERS! THERE WAS ONLY THE DREARINESS, THE BARBED WIRE OF THE GERMAN PRISON CAMP! THERE WAS THE BRUTE ENEMY SERGEANT'S ENDLESS ABUSE! THEN THERE WAS THE ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE, ASTONISHINGLY AIDED BY...

THE VOICE IN THE NIGHT!


SO, AMERICAN, YOU ARE STILL AT IT! WHAT A WASTE OF TIME! YOUR DAUGHTER WILL NEVER SEE THE DOLL YOU MAKE FOR HER! YOU ARE GOING TO STAY IN PRISON FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
LAY OFF BRUNER! ISN'T IT TOUGH ENOUGH FOR US WITHOUT GETTING THE NEEDLE FROM YOU!

SGT. FRITZ BRUNER WAS THE WORST PART OF PRISON LIFE TO BILL SANDERS. HE'D BEEN TAKING THE BULLYING TREATMENT OF THE SERGEANT FOR THREE MONTHS NOW...

WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE YOU? TOO COWARDLY TO TRY TO ESCAPE? YOU, SANDERS? YOU THINK AND BREAK ALWAYS ABOUT YOUR WIFE, YOUR LITTLE GIRL! WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO ESCAPE?
YOU'D LOVE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU, BRAVE GUY? YOU'D LOVE TO HAVE AN EXCUSE TO USE YOUR GUN ON SANDERS!

I DON'T NEED EXCUSES! HE'S TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO TRY TO BREAK OUT!
AND YOU'RE REAL BRAVE BRUNER... WITH AN AUTOMATIC PISTOL IN YOUR HAND!

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SHOOT! IT IS MORE ENJOYABLE TO SEE THE COWARD WORRY ABOUT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, WISHING HE COULD BE WITH THEM, BUT AFRAID TO TRY TO ESCAPE!
TAKE IT EASY, BILL! THE MORE HE GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN, THE BETTER HE LIKES IT!

BILL SANDERS WISHED HE'D NEVER MENTIONED MAE, HIS WIFE, AND EADIE, HIS SIX-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER! HE WISHED HE'D NEVER WRITTEN THEM, FOR THE LETTERS WERE CENSORED, AND SGT. FRITZ BRUNER KNEW HOW BILL WORRIED...

I DON'T MEAN NOW, TED! BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO BUST OUT OF HERE! AND WHEN THE WAR'S OVER, I'M GOING TO HUNT DOWN THAT SWINE AND PAY HIM BACK FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME!

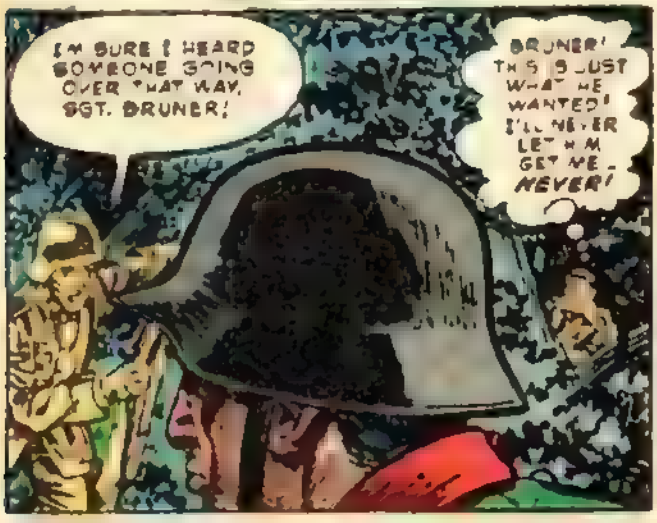
BILL TOOK BRUNER'S TORMENT STOICALLY FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE WAITED TILL HE FINISHED EADIE'S LETTER. THEN THAT NIGHT HE ESCAPED!

THE ENEMY'S BULLETS RIPPED AROUND HIM, BUT NONE FOUND ITS MARK. HE PLUNGED INTO THE SAFETY OF THE WOODS. TEMPORARY SHELTER AT BEST.

SGT. FRITZ BRUNER LED THE SQUAD OF SEARCHERS...HE WAS AWARE THAT IT WAS [illegible] THAT MADE BILL SANDERS RISK A BREAK! BRUNER'S HARSH VOICE WAS FULL OF RAGE AS HE RUSHED ONWARD...

BRUNER AND HIS MEN WERE CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN [illegible] FOR BREATH...IT WAS THEN THAT HE FIRST HEARD THE VOICE IN THE NIGHT...

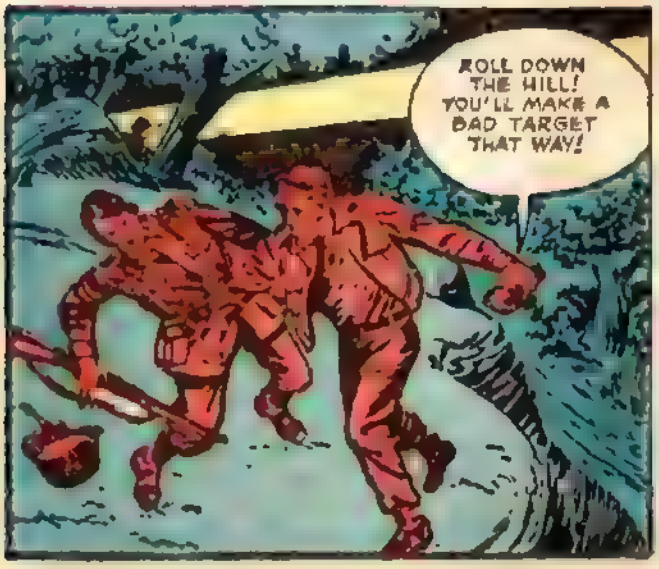
BILL HEEDED NO FURTHER URGING THOUGH HE WAS SURE THE VOICE HE HEARD WAS IN HIS MIND. BUT IT WAS HIS INSTINCT, THEN HE OBEYED IT. BROKE TO THE RIGHT AND FROM ANOTHER HIDING PLACE HE SAW THE SEARCHERS HEAD TO THEIR LEFT...



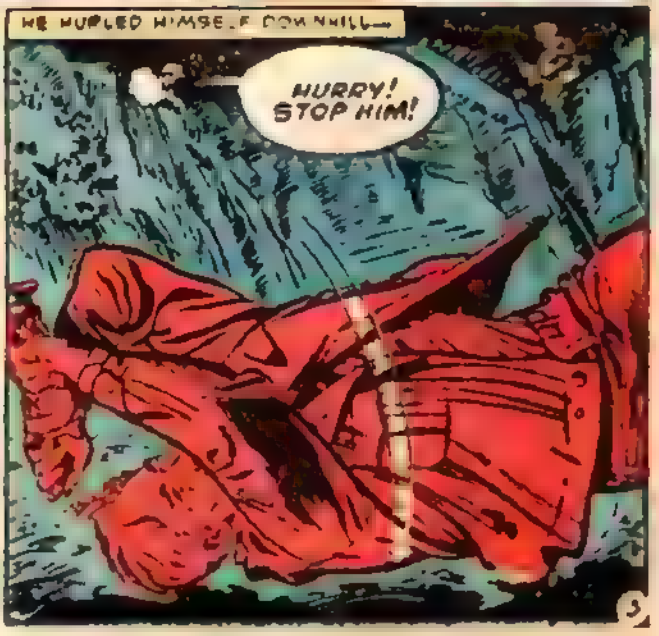
THE FLEEING G.I. STUMBLED ON THRU THE DARKNESS, AWAY FROM HIS PURSUERS. BUT AGAIN THEY CLOSED IN, AND AGAIN CAME THE VOICE IN THE NIGHT...

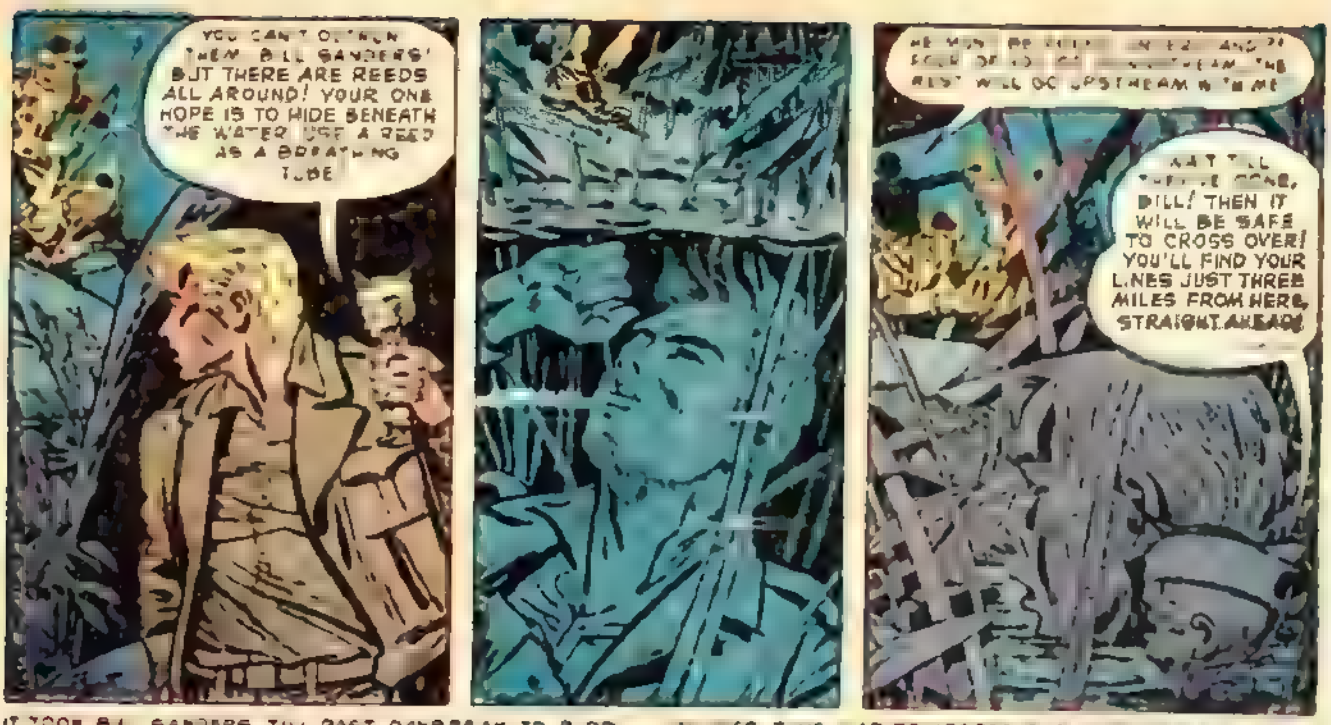
BILL SANDERS WAS NO LESS STARTLED THE SECOND TIME, FOR NOW HE WAS POSITIVE THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE CAME FROM THE DOLL! AGAIN HE OBEYED THE COMMAND...

BILL JUMPED FROM THE TREE WITHOUT HESITATION... HE RAN TO THE NORTH, THE ENEMY SQUAD BREATHING DOWN HIS NECK! ONE OF THEM TOUCHED HIM...



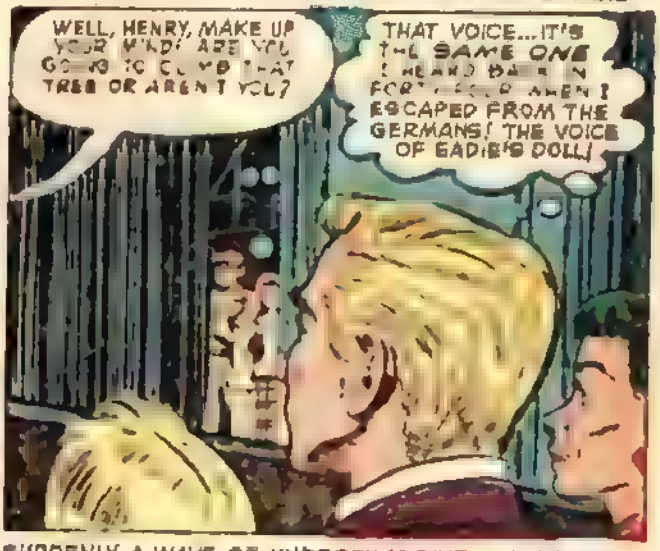
HE HURLED HIMSELF DOWNHILL...



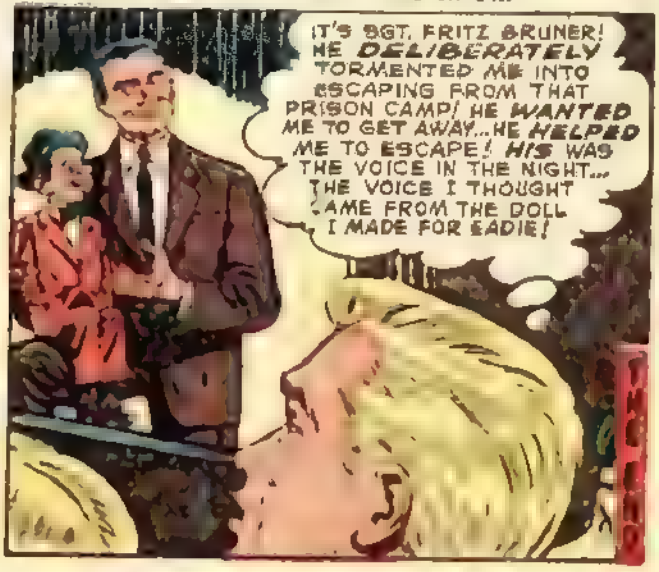

YOU CAN'T OUTRUN THEM, BILL SANDERS! BUT THERE ARE REEDS ALL AROUND! YOUR ONE HOPE IS TO HIDE BENEATH THE WATER USE A REED AS A BREATHING TUBE
AT THE SAME TIME, BILL! THEN IT WILL BE SAFE TO CROSS OVER! YOU'LL FIND YOUR LINES JUST THREE MILES FROM HERE, STRAIGHT AHEAD!

IT TOOK BILL SANDERS TILL PAST DAYBREAK TO BLOOD THOSE THREE OR FOUR MILES THRU THE ROUGH WOODS! THE VOICE IN THE NIGHT SPOKE NO MORE... IT HAD ALREADY DONE ITS PART! IT HAD HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE...

BY 1952 TIME HAD TEMPERED THE HATREDS OF WAR... BILL HAD FORGOTTEN MANY THINGS BUT HE NEVER FORGOT SGT. FRITZ BRUNER! THEN ONE DAY JUST AFTER ENTERING A THEATER WITH WAR AND EADIE...


WELL, HENRY, MAKE UP YOUR MIND! ARE YOU GOING TO CLIMB THAT TREE OR AREN'T YOU?
THAT VOICE... IT'S THE SAME ONE I HEARD BACK IN FORTY-FOUR WHEN I ESCAPED FROM THE GERMANS! THE VOICE OF EADIE'S DOLL!

SUDDENLY A WAVE OF UNDERSTANDING FLOWED OVER BILL SANDERS! THERE AND IN WAR STAMPS WHO THE VENTRILOQUIST ON STAGE WAS...


IT'S SGT. FRITZ BRUNER! HE DELIBERATELY TORMENTED ME INTO ESCAPING FROM THAT PRISON CAMP! HE WANTED ME TO GET AWAY... HE HELPED ME TO ESCAPE! HIS WAS THE VOICE IN THE NIGHT... THE VOICE I THOUGHT CAME FROM THE DOLL I MADE FOR EADIE!
THE END

...KONTINUED

changed and there will be earthquakes and floods and this spot where we are now," he pointed again, "will, in two weeks, be up at the North Pole."

"Amazing," the President said, and plans were rushed to make further preparations.

With such rush orders, the plans were soon completed and the construction begun for the largest underground shelters the world had ever known. Beneath every major city in the northern hemisphere, there were networks of corridors and rooms, kitchens and nurseries to accommodate every person living in that area. Stores of food and clothing were collected. Each person had to register, receive a number and then report several times for drills to the room where he was stationed.

Lists were made out, under Morton's supervision, of course, to tell the people what kind of clothes they should take with them and approximately the temperatures they would find when they finally left their underground retreats after the balance of the earth was shifted. According to Morton's calculations, on that day there would be slight earthquakes felt, then a siren would sound off, and everyone would run to the shelters. Larger earthquakes would rock the earth, but inhabitants in the shelters would scarcely feel a thing. While this six-hour upheaval was going on, on the surface, the earth would gradually shift, and when the people left their place of safety, they would look out on a barren, snow-covered wasteland.

Inevitably, the day soon came when Morton had scheduled the earthquakes to begin, and he felt a slight surge of triumph, along with the first earth tremor. True to schedule, the sirens started, and the people all over the northern latitudes streamed in orderly fashion through the entrances to the shelters. Morton himself was one of the last to go down, and the blast of cold wind on his face made him think, "Everything is going according to calculations."

After six hours, just as Morton predicted, the earthquakes stopped and the people looked hopefully at him. "I think it's all right now," he said. "Everyone bundle up in their warmest clothing, and we'll take a look outside."

The company climbed the steps of the shelter, unbolted the steel doors and took their first look outside. A gasp of amazement ran through the crowd.

"There's no snow here," one of the men said.

"It's warm . . . and look at that green foliage," a woman declared.

"Just like South America."

"Look at that beautiful multicolored bird!"

And Morton stood there, lost in bewilderment and confusion. A fellow scientist tapped him on the shoulder and glared at him. "It *is* South America," he said. "Instead of the North Pole, the earth has shifted so that we're where South America was!"

As the people crowded out of the stuffy shelter, they were amazed. They laughed and sang as they picked out plots for their houses. They took off their overcoats and began unpacking their summer clothing.

As the group of scientists and Army men walked away, taking off their parkas, Morton was following them, trying to explain and shouting uselessly, "But I never *could* add right!"

THE END G-230

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

JOURNEY INTO UNKNOWN WORLDS, published monthly, at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1956.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, WESTERN FICTION PUBLISHING CO. INC., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Managing editor, MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Business manager, MONROE FROEHLICH, JR., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) MONROE FROEHLICH, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of September, 1956

(SEAL) TESS GOLDBERG

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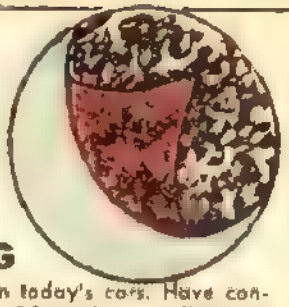

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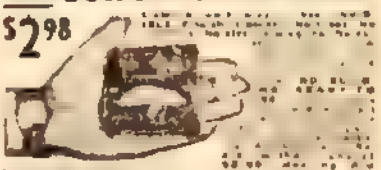

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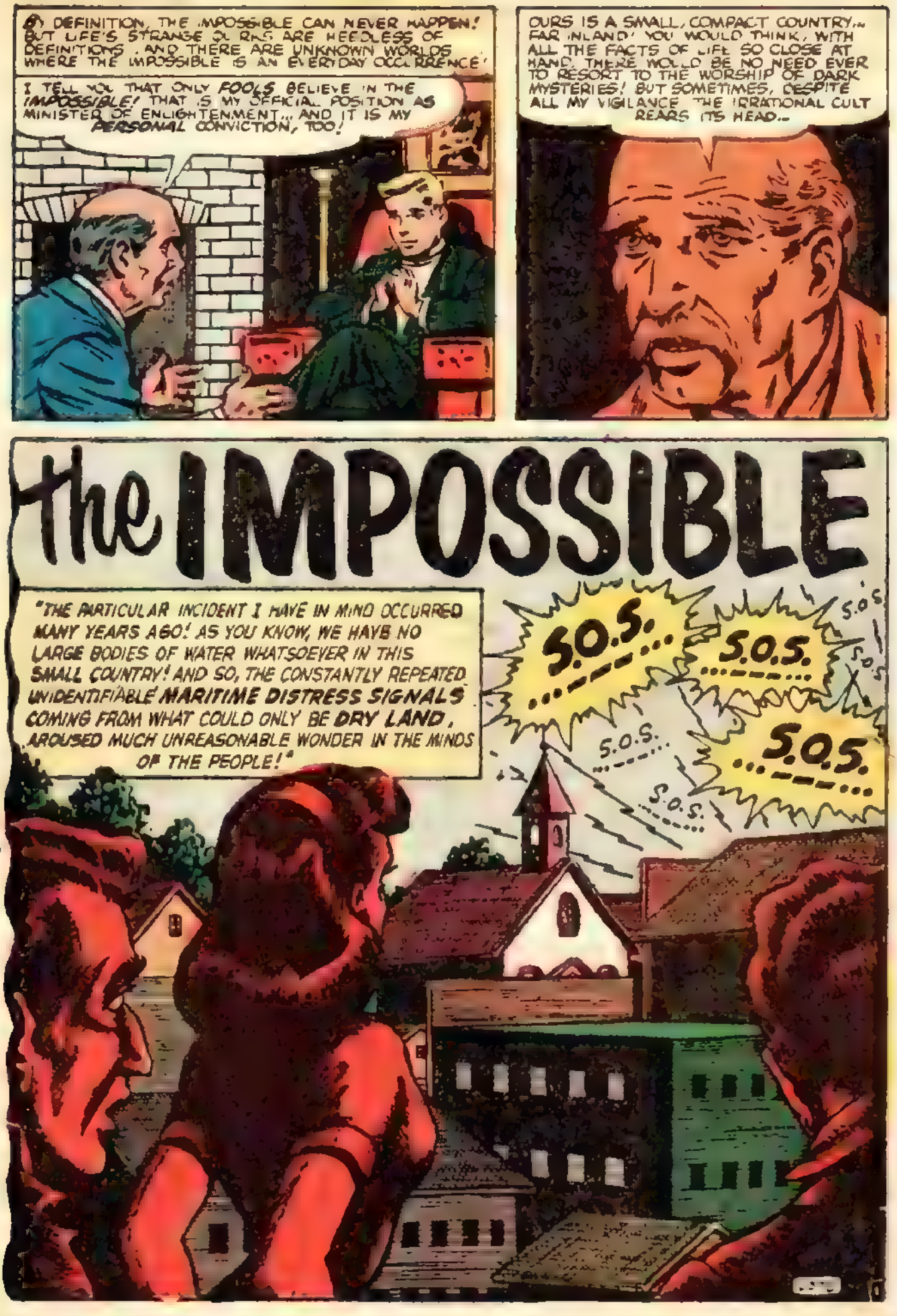
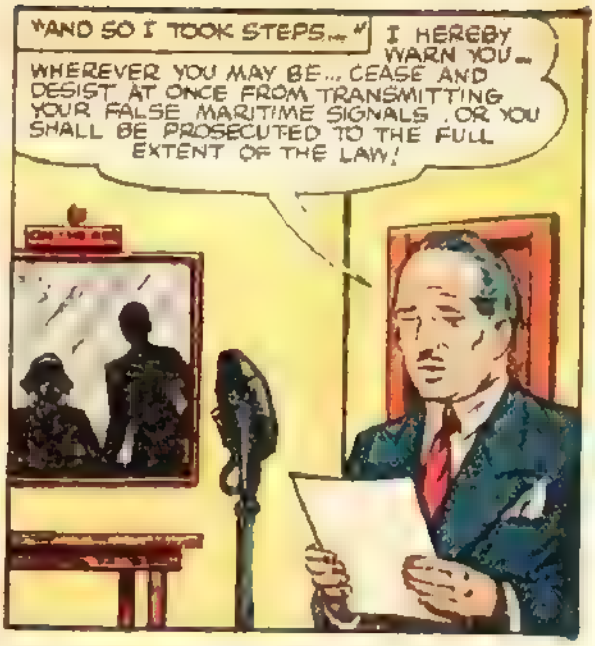
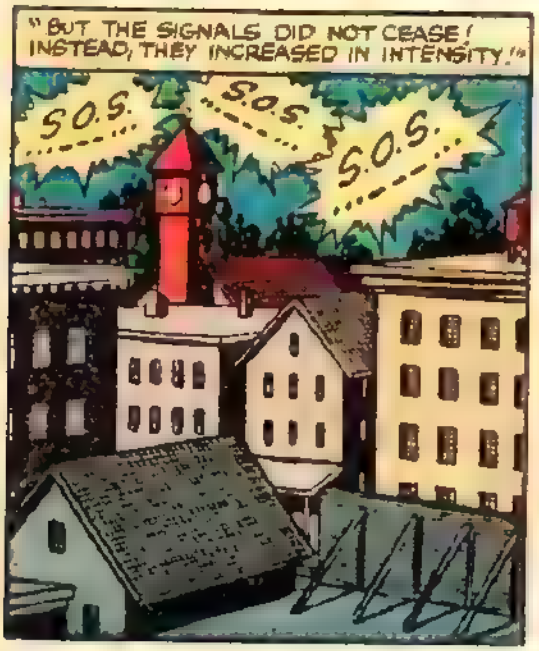

BY DEFINITION, THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN NEVER HAPPEN! BUT LIFE'S STRANGE QUIRKS ARE HEEDLESS OF DEFINITIONS... AND THERE ARE UNKNOWN WORLDS WHERE THE IMPOSSIBLE IS AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE!
I TELL YOU THAT ONLY FOOLS BELIEVE IN THE IMPOSSIBLE! THAT IS MY OFFICIAL POSITION AS MINISTER OF ENLIGHTENMENT... AND IT IS MY PERSONAL CONVICTION, TOO!
OURS IS A SMALL, COMPACT COUNTRY... FAR INLAND! YOU WOULD THINK, WITH ALL THE FACTS OF LIFE SO CLOSE AT HAND, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED EVER TO RESORT TO THE WORSHIP OF DARK MYSTERIES! BUT SOMETIMES, DESPITE ALL MY VIGILANCE THE IRRATIONAL CULT REARS ITS HEAD...
the IMPOSSIBLE
"THE PARTICULAR INCIDENT I HAVE IN MIND OCCURRED MANY YEARS AGO! AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE NO LARGE BODIES OF WATER WHATSOEVER IN THIS SMALL COUNTRY! AND SO, THE CONSTANTLY REPEATED UNIDENTIFIABLE MARITIME DISTRESS SIGNALS COMING FROM WHAT COULD ONLY BE DRY LAND, AROUSED MUCH UNREASONABLE WONDER IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE!"
S.O.S.
S.O.S.
S.O.S.
S.O.S.
S.O.S.
S.O.S.

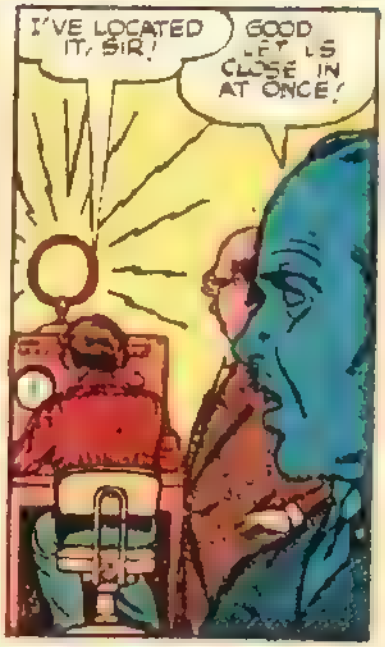
"AS MINISTER OF ENLIGHTENMENT, I WAS IMMEDIATELY AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE SIGNALS IF THEY REMAINED UNCHECKED!"

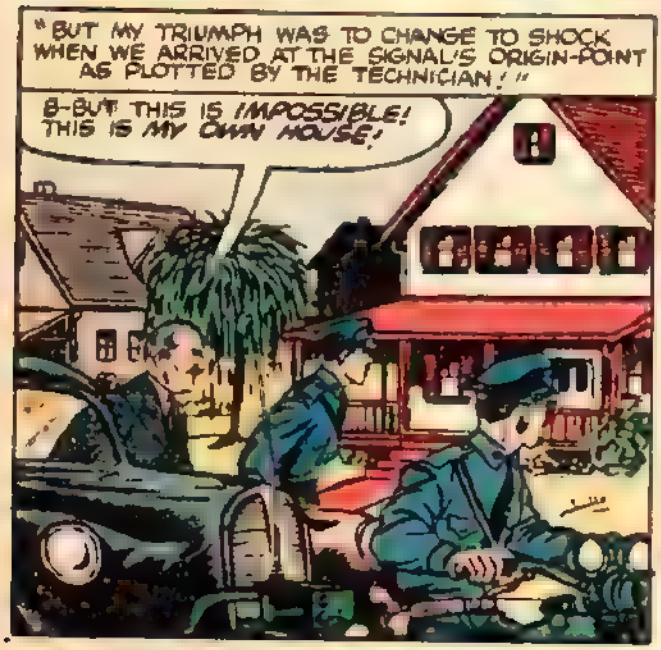
WE MUST PUT A STOP TO THIS IDLE PRANKSTER WHO DELIGHTS IN BECLOUDING MEN'S MINDS BY MISUSING HIS RADIO APPARATUS!
S.O.S.
S.O.S.
S.O.S.


"AND SO I TOOK STEPS..."
I HEREBY WARN YOU... WHEREVER YOU MAY BE... CEASE AND DESIST AT ONCE FROM TRANSMITTING YOUR FALSE MARITIME SIGNALS, OR YOU SHALL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW!



"SO I TOOK FURTHER STEPS ...I CALLED IN A GOVERNMENT RADIO TECHNICIAN..."
WITH THIS DIRECTIONAL FINDER, HE WILL BE ABLE TO PLOT PRECISELY WHERE THE SIGNALS ORIGINATE FROM! SOON, NOW... THE PRANKSTER WILL BE IN OUR HANDS!




"BUT MY TRIUMPH WAS TO CHANGE TO SHOCK WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE SIGNAL'S ORIGIN-POINT AS PLOTTED BY THE TECHNICIAN!"
B-BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THIS IS MY OWN HOUSE!

SHALL WE SEARCH THE HOUSE, SIR?
OF COURSE! IF THE PRANKSTER IS A MEMBER OF MY OWN FAMILY, HIS PUNISHMENT SHALL BE EVEN MORE SEVERE!

WE'VE FOUND NOTHING ON ANY OF THE UPPER LEVELS, SIR!
THEN TRY THE BASEMENT! THE PRANKSTER MUST BE FOUND!
"WE WERE IN THE BASEMENT NOW, AND ST L WE FOUND NOTHING BUT SUDDENLY ."
LOOK!
THE SIGNALS ARE COMING FROM THAT MODEL SHIP THAT FELL INTO THE BASIN!
AND THE MODEL IS SEALED INSIDE THE BOTTLE!
AND NOW THAT WE'VE PULLED IT OUT OF THE BASIN, THE S.O.S. SIGNALS HAVE STOPPED!
WHOEVER WAS SENDING THOSE SIGNALS... FEELS SAFE NOW!
AMAZING! PLEASE... TELL ME WHOM YOU FOUND WHEN YOU OPENED THE BOTTLE?
THE BOTTLE WAS NEVER OPENED! HOW COULD I EVER HAVE PERMITTED IT TO BE OPENED BY RESPONSIBLE STATE OFFICIALS? WHAT ABOUT MY DUTY AS MINISTER OF ENLIGHTENMENT? WE OFFICIALS ARE ALWAYS IN THE PUBLIC EYE! WE MUST SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST!
...TO OPEN THAT BOTTLE WOULD HAVE MEANT THAT WE EXPECTED TO FIND SOMETHING! THAT WE OURSELVES BELIEVED IN THE IMPOSSIBLE!
FOR YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I. THAT IT IS UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A FORM OF LIFE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING RADIO SIGNALS TO EXIST INSIDE A SEALED BOTTLE!

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—WALTER GABLE, Md.

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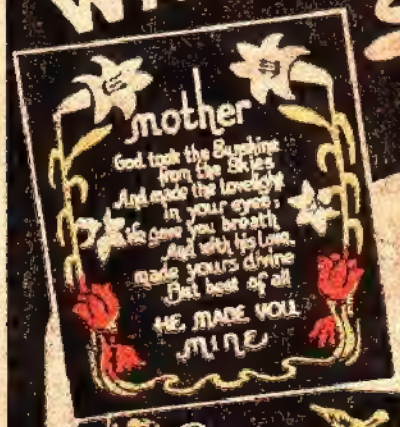

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